



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Authorize return of the remaining donated Breakaway Sports items to Mr. Dave Vaccarezza

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2004

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council authorize return of the remaining donated Breakaway Sports items to donor, Mr. David Vaccarezza, in accordance with provisions of the amended Letter of Understanding dated January 24, 2003.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In February 2002, the City of Lodi accepted a very generous donation of approximately one million dollars of various sports equipment from Mr. Dave Vaccarezza. Over the course of time, staff met several times with various groups to develop plans on how best to use the donated items. Through this process, it was ultimately decided to focus efforts on the donated soccer fields and the construction of an open-air soccer facility to be located north of the Grape Bowl on City-owned property.

On December 18, 2002, staff presented a review of the Breakaway Sports donated items to the City Council and asked Council to authorize preparation of specifications and construction documents, as well as the advertisement for bids for the Soccer Field project facility installation. However, further evaluation of the project created many challenges that were not easy to address or overcome. There were no existing facilities available in Lodi to house the donated basketball courts, and costs to build the proposed project continued to escalate, resulting in a very high-cost facility that proved to be inferior to the one which was originally approved by Council.


As a result of the first challenge (no existing facilities), staff asked Council to approve the return of certain donated items to Dave Vaccarezza and to amend the original Letter of Understanding dated February 8, 2002. The Council approved this action on January 24, 2003, and those items were returned to the donor.

Concurrently, staff continued to look at different design options for the project and evaluate related costs. As costs continued to escalate and capital funds became more of a concern, staff finally made the recommendation to both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council not to move forward with the Donated Soccer Field project as planned.

APPROVED: 
H. Dixon Flynn, City Manager

The final step is to dispose of and/or return the equipment that remains in the City's possession pursuant to the conditions in the amended Letter of Understanding. Mr. Vaccarezza has acknowledged our demise and has graciously agreed to accept return of all items. This action will result in a savings to the City of \$828.26 per month, the amount currently being charged to store the equipment.

FUNDING: None needed


Tony Goehring
Parks and Recreation Director

TG:tl

cc: City Attorney